

REMARKS

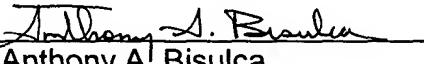
Prior to the calculation of the filing fees, please enter this Amendment. The claims added herein are fully supported by the original application as filed. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-12 have been amended to bring the same into conformance with US practice, while new claim 13-22 have been added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Amendment. The attached document is entitled "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made"

An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Thomas FICHTNER

Docket: 1999DE508

Serial No.: to be assigned

Filed: March 22, 2002

For: UTILIZATION OF WATER-SOLUBLE ZIRCONIUM COMPOUNDS AS DRYING ACCELERATORS IN AQUEOUS COATING AGENTS

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-12 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for accelerating the drying of an aqueous coating composition having one or more binders comprising the step of adding [The use of] one or more water-soluble zirconium compounds to the coating composition [as drying accelerators in aqueous coating compositions], wherein the binders present in the coating [compositions comprising] composition include polymer dispersions based on one or more homopolymers and/or copolymers.
2. (Amended) The [use] method as claimed in claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the overall zirconium compound content, calculated as zirconium oxide and based on the binders present in the coating [compositions] composition, is up to 50% by weight.
3. (Amended) The [use] method as claimed in claim 2, [characterized in that] wherein the overall zirconium compound content is from 0.5 to 10% by weight.

4. (Amended) The [use] method as claimed in [at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the zirconium compounds] claim 1, wherein the one or more water-soluble zirconium compounds is selected from the group consisting of [used comprise] ammonium zirconium carbonate, zirconium acetoacetate, zirconium hydroxychloride, zirconium orthosulfate, zirconium propionate and[/or] potassium zirconium phosphate.
5. (Amended) The [use] method as claimed in claim 4, [characterized in that] wherein the one or more water-soluble zirconium compounds is ammonium zirconium carbonate [is used as zirconium compound].
6. (Amended) The [use] method as claimed in [at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the one or more zirconium compounds are added to the coating [compositions] composition as solids and/or as aqueous solutions.
7. (Amended) The [use] method as claimed in [at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that in addition to the binder] claim 1, wherein the coating [compositions comprise] composition includes at least one additive, wherein the at least one additive is selected from the group consisting of film formers, pigments, fillers, thickeners, dispersants, wetting agents, preservatives, emulsifiers and[/or] defoamers.
8. (Amended) The [use] method as claimed in [at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that,] claim 1, wherein, based on the overall amount of the monomers, the copolymers [contain] comprise:
 - a) from 70 to 99.7% by weight of one or more free-radically polymerizable olefinically unsaturated compounds selected from the group

consisting of acrylates and methacrylates of (C₁-C₁₂) monoalcohols, vinylaromatic monomers, vinyl esters of (C₁-C₁₂) alkanemonocarboxylic acids, vinyl halides, α,β -monoolefinically unsaturated nitriles and[or] alkyl esters of monoolefinically unsaturated dicarboxylic acids,

- b) from 0.3 to 10% by weight of one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of α,β -monoolefinically unsaturated monocarboxylic acids, [and] dicarboxylic acids, and[or] their amides or N-substituted amides, and
- c) from 0 to 20% by weight of compounds selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl-containing monomers, acetylacetoxyl-containing monomers, monomers containing epoxide groups, monomers containing silane groups, nitrogen-containing monomers and[or] monomers containing keto groups.

9. (Amended) The [use] method as claimed in [at least one of the preceding claims, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the one or more binders comprise at least one additive selected from the group consisting of emulsifiers, protective colloids, additives, auxiliaries and[or] noncopolymerizable crosslinkers.

10. (Amended) The [use] method as claimed in [at least one of the preceding claims, characterized] claim 1, wherein the aqueous coating composition is a composition selected from the group consisting of [in that the coating compositions comprise] an exterior paint, an interior paint, a roadmarking paint, a primer, a wood coating, exterior render [or] and interior plaster.

11. (Amended) The [use] method as claimed in [at least one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the aqueous coating [compositions comprise] composition is a composition selected from the group consisting

of adhesives, pastes, putties, sealing compounds [or] and pressure compensation coatings for exterior insulation and finish systems.

12. (Amended) The [use] method as claimed in [at least one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the coating [compositions] composition [comprise the] includes unadditived binders [which are used as they are].

Please add new claims 13 through 22 as follows:

13. (New) An aqueous coating composition comprising:
at least one binder, wherein the at least one binder includes polymer dispersions based on one or more homopolymers and/or copolymers; and at least one water-soluble zirconium compound.

14. (New) The aqueous coating composition as claimed in claim 13, wherein the at least one zirconium compound is present in an amount up to 50% by weight, calculated as zirconium oxide and based on the at least one binder present in the coating composition.

15. (New) The aqueous coating composition as claimed in claim 13, wherein the at least one zirconium compound is selected from the group consisting of ammonium zirconium carbonate, zirconium acetoacetate, zirconium hydroxychloride, zirconium orthosulfate, zirconium propionate and potassium zirconium phosphate.

16. (New) The aqueous coating composition as claimed in claim 13, wherein based on the amount of monomers, the copolymers comprise:

- a) from 70 to 99.7% by weight of one or more free-radically polymerizable olefinically unsaturated compounds selected from the group consisting of acrylates and methacrylates of (C₁-C₁₂) monoalcohols, vinylaromatic monomers, vinyl esters of (C₁-C₁₂) alkanemonocarboxylic acids, vinyl halides, α,β -monoolefinically unsaturated nitriles and alkyl esters of monoolefinically unsaturated dicarboxylic acids,
- b) from 0.3 to 10% by weight of one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of α,β -monoolefinically unsaturated monocarboxylic acids, dicarboxylic acids, and their amides or N-substituted amides, and
- c) from 0 to 20% by weight of compounds selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl-containing monomers, acetylacetoxyl-containing monomers, monomers containing epoxide groups, monomers containing silane groups, nitrogen-containing monomers and monomers containing keto groups.

17. (New) A paint comprising the aqueous coating composition as claimed in claim 13.

18. (New) A primer comprising the aqueous coating composition as claimed in claim 13.

19. (New) A wood coating comprising the aqueous coating composition as claimed in claim 13.

20. (New) An exterior render comprising the aqueous coating composition as claimed in claim 13.

21. (New) An interior plaster comprising the aqueous coating composition as claimed in claim 13.

22. (New) A compound comprising the aqueous coating composition as claimed in claim 13, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of adhesives, pastes, putties, sealing compounds and pressure compensation coatings for exterior insulation and finish systems